

HEAL
27 AUG 74

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT

LIBRARY

-- in the --

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1945.

TO: THE CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a short Report of the Sanitary conditions of the Chard Rural District for the Year 1945.

Employment in the area continued at a high level during the year, men and women returning from the Services being rapidly absorbed into civilian occupations thus doing a little to relieve the labour shortage which has been so acute of recent years.

There was no unusual outbreak of Infectious Disease during the year. There was the usual seasonal occurrence of Influenza and Respiratory Catarrh during the early months of the year, but the cases were not unduly severe.

As regards Notifiable Infectious Disease, two cases of Diphtheria were notified, both were adults who had not been immunised. The cases were admitted to hospital and recovered. There was no spread. One case of Malaria was notified in a returned Service man. These cases are certain to occur from time to time as men return from countries where Malaria exists.

List of Cases of INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified in 1945.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	9 ...	3 ...	-
Diphtheria ...	2 ...	2 ...	-
Measles ...	89 ...	- ...	-
Whooping cough ...	4 ...	- ...	-
Pneumococcal Meningitis ...	1 ...	1 ...	1
Malaria ...	1 ...	- ...	-
Pneumonia ...	6 ...	- ...	5
Chickenpox ...	7 ...	- ...	-
Erysipelas ...	1 ...	- ...	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Type.	Total cases notified.	Total Deaths.
Respiratory ...	13 ...	2
Non-Respiratory ...	- ...	1

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ...	100 ...	97
Illegitimate ...	11 ...	15
Total	111	112

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate ...	5	...	1
Illegitimate ...	-	...	-
<u>Total</u>	<u>5</u>	...	<u>1</u>

There was an increase in the number of births over the previous year. On the other hand there was a decrease in the deaths of infants under one year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

<u>Total (Legitimate)</u>	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>	
	1	...	2	divided as follows:-
	Under 1 week	...	2	
	1 - 4 weeks	...	-	
	1 - 6 months	...	1	
	6 - 12 "	...	-	

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>		<u>Female.</u>
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	...	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	...	-
Influenza ...	-	...	1
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	...	2
Cancer of Breast ...	-	...	5
Cancer of other Sites ...	12	...	4
Intercranial Vascular Lesions	7	...	12
Heart Disease ...	23	...	22
Other Circulatory Diseases ..	1	...	2
Bronchitis ...	7	...	6
Pneumonia ...	2	...	4
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	2	...	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	3	...	-
Other Digestive Disorders ...	1	...	2
Nephritis ...	2	...	6
Premature Birth ...	-	...	1
Congenital Malformities ...	1	...	1
Suicide ...	-	...	1
Road Traffic Accident ...	-	...	1
Other Violent Causes ...	3	...	-
All other causes ...	9	...	14
<u>Total</u> ...	<u>77</u>	...	<u>84</u>

WATER SUPPLIES.

There were no extensions of water supplies carried out during the year. Great difficulty was experienced in maintaining supplies at Winsham during the summer months. Additional small springs have since been collected at the source, but the present yield is still insufficient.

Post-War proposals for Water Supplies:

- Extension to Winsham from Forton with branches to Bridge, Ammerham and Golden Fleece;
- Extension from Crewkerne Water Company's main to Clapton;
- New mains at Ashill to replace corroded iron mains;
- Extension of supply to Buckland St. Mary and Newtown;
- Extension of Regional Scheme, including additional borehole at Pole Rue, Combe St. Nicholas, to connect to existing main at Pretwood, near Ilminster.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No extensions or new works carried out during 1945.

Post-War proposals:

- (a) Forton, Sewers and Sewage Disposal;
- (b) Donyatt, do: do.
- (c) Dowlish Wake, do. do.
- (d) Merriott, Septic Tank and New Sewers;
- (e) Tatworth, Filters;
- (f) Winsham, New Sewers;
- (g) Hinton St. George, Sewers and Sewage Disposal;
- (h) Lopen, do: do:
- (i) Broadway, do: do:
- (j) Seavington, do: do:
- (k) Stocklinch, do. do.

HOUSING.

The shortage of houses in the area is still acute. There were 253 applicants for Council houses at the end of 1945.

Houses erected by Local Authority during year	...	Nil.
Houses erected by private enterprise	...	Nil.
Houses in course of erection -		
by Local Authority	...	10 Bungalows.
by Private Enterprise	...	2 Houses.

It is estimated that 600 new houses will be required in the next five years.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) Total number of Registered Dairy Farms	...	547
(b) Number of Retailers	...	60
(c) Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b)	..	58
(d) Number of Licensed Pasteurising Plants	...	-
(e) Number of Heat Treated Plants	...	1

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

(a) Number of Licensed Slaughter Houses in district	Nil.
formerly	11
(b) Number of Registered Slaughter Houses	15
(c) Number in use under Ministry of Food	Nil.

KNACKERS YARDS.

Nil.

RIVER POLLUTION.

There was some pollution of the River Isle by an industrial effluent during the year. Report on this was made to the Chard Rural District Council, Somerset County Council and the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health. The process which produced this effluent has now been discontinued.

C. C. COURT M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Chard Rural District.

19th August, 1946.

